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VOLUME 22 · NO. 10 · OCTOBER 1959

A Patient's-Eye View of Hospital Nurses......37 Patients appreciate your speed, efficiency, and dexterity, but there's a fourth quality they value most of all—the ability to comfort them at all times and in all situations Risk Cases . . . Should the private duty nurse always accept them? And if she does, is she entitled to extra pay? Here's what doctors. registry directors, nursing directors, and private duty nurses themselves have to say about these questions Giving Oxygen Therapy......41 If your knowledge of how to use old and new types of O., equipment needs brushing up a bit, Cathy Grant's experience as related in this RN Refresher will help you Exploding Those Menopause Myths............57 A noted woman gynecologist gives mature, down-to-earth answers to frequently asked questions on this topic

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"What a day!"

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contents

Humphrey Aids Nurses Seeking B.S. Degrees 61 The Senator from Minnesota has introduced a bill to provide \$10,000,000 a year in nursing scholarships
Radioactive Drugs
DEPARTMENTS and SHORT FEATURES
Letters
Announcement of the 1960 RN Awards26
Literature and Samples
Rx for Getting Names Right39
'Bring the Cardiac Crash Cart!'
We Cure Bedsores With Sheepskin
Sneeze in Slow Motion
Prepping for OB Anesthesia
What's New in Drugs
Positions Available
News19
M.D.s Report Safe Way to Simplify Baby-Feeding19
'High Fees May Doom Private Duty'19
O.R. Nurse Trims Linen Usage21
'D.N.' and 'R.D.N.' Called Illegal21
Surgeon Favors Open-Air Treatment of Incision22
Blue Cross Tries Out Home Nursing Plan23
Capsules21

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18" of flexible tubing permits either self-administration by the patient in the sittin position or conventional administration in the left lateral or knee-chest position, is so gentle that the patient is practically unaware of the introduction of fluid ... cleans more thoroughly and consistently than two, one-quart tap water enemas ... can be administered, retained and evacuated in less than 10 minutes*

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*Weinstein, J. J.: Bowel Preparation for Anosigmoidescopy with a Hydrogogue Enema. To be published.

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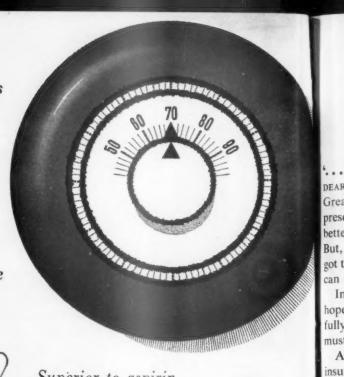
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Bottles of 100 and 500

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Superior to aspirin in antipyretic action

The hypothalamic nuclei play an indispensable role in regulating the peripheral mechanism concerned with the production of and the loss of body heat. As a result, the hypothalamus has been commonly termed the 'thermostat' of the body.1 Anacin acts promptly to reset the thermostat back to normal temperature again. In fact, investigation by Brownlee² verifies that one of the components in Anacin (acetophenetidin) is superior to aspirin in reducing fever in hyperpyretic patients. Anacin Tablets offer effective symptomatic therapy for the common cold. Anacin not only relieves the headache, malaise and grippal symptoms but also allays tension, restlessness and depression. Well tolerated, there's no gastric upset with Anacin.

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

Reference: 1. Goodman, Louis S, and Gilman. Alfred: The Pharmacological Basis et peutics, Sec. Ed., 1955. E. Brownlee. George: A Comparison of the Antipyretic Activ Toxicity of Phenacetin and Aspirin, Quarterly J. of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, 10:00

Pletters

"... GREATEST WEAKNESS"

DEAR EDITOR: "'Hospital Nursing's Greatest Weakness'" (RN, July) presents a valid point [the need for better intrastaff communication]. But, as the old saying goes, you've got to catch your rabbit before you can cook it.

In this case, before you can hope to "pass the word" successfully from shift to shift, you first must "catch" an adequate staff.

Also, you must find a way to insure *uninterrupted* reporting. *That* could be quite a trick!

Edna Davis, R.N. El Paso, Tex.

DEAR EDITOR: I agree with the author that communications could be improved. Yet her message sounds hollow to me.

First, there's her incredible suggestion that it's a waste of time to pass wash water to patients in the morning. The damp washcloth she would substitute could hinder, rather than improve, communication with the patient:

Another point: Is it enough for the nurse to know only that a patient refuses a tray, or is frightened or depressed? Shouldn't she also know why? Patients need to be communicated with as well as about!

When a nurse starts out to champion an ideal, there's always the danger that the patient may be neglected.

At any rate, let's not dispense with the soap and water— and let's not succumb to Organization Thinking.

Shirley M. Payne, R.N. Boston, Mass.

DEAR EDITOR: ... a most interesting and enlightening article!

Few nurses take notes during report. As a result, many fail to pass important information along to the next shift. Since student days I've found note-taking invaluable in helping me carry out my duties.

William H. Nace, R.N. Philadelphia, Pa.

UNLIMITED VISITING

DEAR EDITOR: Your article "'...as Well as Can Be Expected'" brings to mind an experience I had as head nurse in a busy premature nursery.

I was a "chief" who seldom had

AMERICAN-GRAY DIVERTER VALVE

Hoseless BEDPAN RINSER



Nursing personnel welcome the east and convenience of the American-Gray Diverter Valve. Cost-conscious administrators like its simple, low-cost installation, minimum maintenance and time saving features. The Amsco-Gray Diverter Valve eliminates awkward hoses where leaks are both dangerous and annoying. Acceptable under the most rigid plumbing codes, thousands of these improved American-Gray Diverter Valves are saving hours and dollars in hospitals and nursing homes throughout the world.

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EASY, ECONOMICAL TO INSTALL

Existing flush valve raised to permit short extensions on either new or existing installations, (left). American-Gray Diverter Valve, placed between flush valve vacuum and toilet . . . easy, economical installation, (right). Top, back and side inlets can be accommodated with complete piping between vacuum breaker and toilet.







AMERICAN STERILIZER

Offices in 14 Principal Cities

12 RN - остовен 1959

letters

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and dollars ng homes the help of any "Indians." When visiting hours arrived, my moments were usually so full of babies that I rarely had time to pay attention to parents.

I knew the parents of a preemie needed a lot of briefing before they took charge of their baby. So, contrary to front-office policy, I told parents to come whenever they could. Result: The parents were pleased and I was able to teach them what they needed to know.

Gladys M. Temple, R.N. Balboa, Canal Zone

OSTEOPATHY CLARIFIED

DEAR EDITOR: Your July article on osteopathy is very informative. It cleared up a lot of misconceptions for me.

Bessie L. Dudding, R.N. Huntington, W. Va.

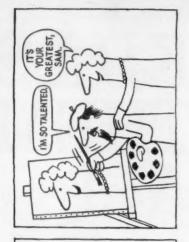
YOUNGER VS. OLDER

DEAR EDITOR: I write in reply to the letter that says, "Older graduates resent taking orders from these young upstarts who've been graduated for only a year or so."

But what happens when a young graduate finds that an older graduate who returns to nursing has become rusty? The young graduate wants to help her co-worker, but the older graduate resents any offer of help.

In being resentful and critical of each other we lose sight of our most important responsibility: the patient.

More







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in vaginal infections . . .

THE

monilia, trichomonas, nonspecific \ organisms

and VAGINAL GEL

- · prompt relief from infection. discharge, pruritus
- therapeutically active in presence of blood, pus, vaginal secretions
- · provides all the germicidal properties of elemental iodine . . . yet does not burn or sting
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- esthetically acceptable, pleasantly scented, imparts a feeling of cleanliness

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TAILBY-NASON COMPANY, INC. Dover, Delaware

14 RN · OCTOBER 1959

letters

Older and younger can work together-and the combination call make for a well-rounded staff.

> Ludwell Newcomb, R.N. Norfolk, Va.

MASTECTOMY PATIENTS

DEAR EDITOR: Your excellent article on breast surgery (RN, August) prompts me to make this point All prospective mastectomy patients should be told about suitable prostheses by their doctor or by a well-informed nurse.

I was told nothing, either before or after my double mastectomy. I had to find a satisfactory breast form by trial and error. Now I tell all my mastectomy patients about this form. You'd be amazed at their improved mental state after they find out they won't have to look disfigured.

> Eileen Rocksvold, R.N. Woodland, Calif.

PRIVATE DUTY FEES

DEAR EDITOR: I disagree with "R.N., California" who says private duty nurses are pricing themselves out of work.

Think of the expenses a private duty nurse has: dues, registration, malpractice insurance, car upkeep, health and accident insurance (to mention a few). And whenever she's ill or takes a vacation, her income stops.

Even \$20 a shift wouldn't be too much to charge! I'm a head nurse and have been for years, but my

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sympathy goes out to the private duty nurse.

> Harrie M. Solomon, R.N. Walnut Creek, Calif.

DEAR EDITOR: If "R.N., California" agrees with the M.D.s who consent to the use of aides for private duty, she might just as well say good-by to private duty nursing.

No doubt she herself would be the first to have a private duty nurse-no matter what the price -if she were critically ill.

> Fern Bonamino, R.N. Erie, Pa.

TROUBLE-SHOOTING R.N.

DEAR EDITOR: A recent letter refers to talk going on about "the R.N. being replaced by the degree nurse, who'll do the paper work, and by the practical nurse, who'll give the nursing care."

Before such an arrangement could become standard practice (heaven forbid!), the practical nurse would need to receive more training than she now gets. For even though some nursing duties don't require unusual skill, the nurse's bedside observations can mean the difference between life and death.

Every nursing team responsible for bedside care should include at least one well-qualified R.N. as an observer and trouble shooter . . .

> Flo E. Woomer, R.N. Gettysburg, Pa.

> > END

The seborrheic state is always found associated with bacterial and yeast infection.

kills pathogens on contact; effective in pyoderma

safe, nontoxic, nonirritating, nonsensitizing

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rich golden lather, pleasantly scented, leaves hair easy-to-manage



1. SPOOR, H.: PROC. SCIENT. SEC. TGA NO. 31, MAY 1959.

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- · abrasions of the skin
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FULL-PROTECTION SHEATHS

in the package—after filling to the moment of injection

now in sizes to meet most parenteral needs manufactured, sterilized and controlled by

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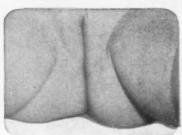
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HEALS SOOTHES PROTECTS



Typical diaper rash



White's Vitamin A & D Ointment applied at every diaper change for one



Treatment-resistant varicose ulcer



White's Vitamin A & D Ointment applied daily for five weeks.



Gasoline burns—second and third degree



White's Vitamin A & D Ointment—impregnated pressure gauze dressings changed at weekly intervals.

White's Vitamin A & D Ointment in 11/2 and 4 oz. tubes; 1 lb. jars and 5 lb. containers

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RInews

M.D.s Report Safe Way to Simplify Baby-Feeding

With safe milk, safe water, and good refrigeration available, can today's mother safely skip the time-honored practice of sterilizing her baby's formula?

Dr. John P. Gibson of Abilene, Tex., reports in the Journal of Pediatrics that one-fourth of some 185 mothers studied in that city don't sterilize the formula; yet the incidence of diarrhea among their babies, he says, isn't any greater than among the babies of mothers who make a practice of sterilizing the formula.

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In the same publication, Drs. Carl C. Fischer and Mark A. Whitman of Philadelphia report good results from the use of evaporated milk and *hot* tap water (with carbohydrates added or not, as indicated).

Their method requires these precautions:

¶ If the water comes from any but a safe city or suburban water supply, boil it for five minutes.

¶ Clean bottle, nipple, spoon, and funnel thoroughly.

¶ Clean the can of milk and open it under sterile conditions.

¶ Leave unused milk in the opened can and put it in the refrigerator at once. Use it again in less than twenty-four hours; otherwise, discard it.

¶ Discard any formula left in the bottle after the baby has been fed.

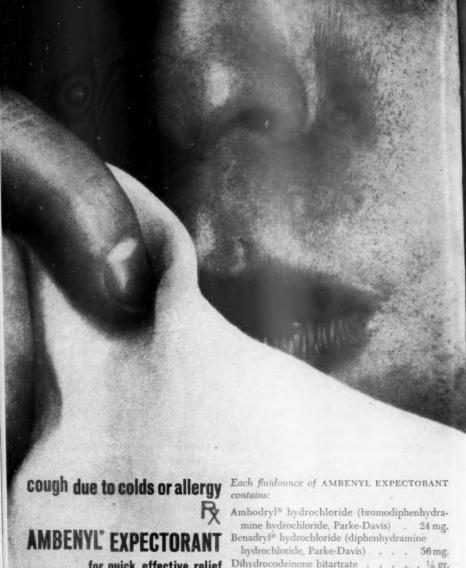
'High Fees May Doom Private Duty'

"Once there were no private duty nurses. Perhaps soon again there will be none... The recent [fee] increases may be the spark that will fire enthusiasm for the [progressive] care system."

So says the publication Massachusetts Physician in reference to the \$17 fee that Massachusetts private duty nurses may now charge per shift.

If the increase in private duty fees does cause most hospitals to adopt the progressive care system, only patients who can afford "pampering" will have private duty nurses, the publication contends. The others, it predicts, will be cared for as follows:

1. Those admitted for diagnosis "or who are otherwise putting in their time" will generally "get



for quick, effective relief

- · Antiallergic, antispasmodic, demulcent
- * Reduces bronchial spasm and congestion
- · Helps to thin mucus and facilitates expectoration

hydroch	lo	ride	e, I	ar	ke-	Da	vis)		*	2	56 mg.
Dihydroco	de	eine	one	bi	tar	tra	te	,	8	,		1/6 gr.
Ammonium	n	chl	ori	de			8			*		8 gr.
Potassium												
Menthol		*	×	,	*		*		ĸ			q.s.
Alcohol						*	*		*	*		5%

Supplied: Bottles of 16 ounces and 1 gallon.

Dosage: Every three or four hours - adults, 1 to 2 teaspoonfuls; children, 1/2 to I teaspoonful.



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news

along with ward aides and some measure of self-help."

2. The average patient will get average nursing care.

3. The critically ill and the problem cases will get special care from competent staff nurses.

"There will, of course, be three appropriate price schedules," the journal adds.

O.R. Nurse Trims Linen Usage

Figuratively speaking, Dorothy Austin, R.N., has made a mountain of linen into a molehill of linen in the operating suites at Cleveland's Lakeside Hospital.

How? By designing a simplified sterile pack for minor surgery.

The standard pack, she noticed. contained many items of linen never used in minor procedures. Yet once the pack was opened, its contents had to be relaundered and resterilized.

Miss Austin's minor-surgery pack not only cuts down on this expense but also saves on linen replacement costs.

'D.N.' and 'R.D.N.' Called Illegal

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q.s.

5%

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NY

If you see a woman in white in a doctor's office wearing a medical pin with the letters "D.N." or "R.D.N." superimposed on chances are she isn't an R.N.

She's a member of the American Registry of Doctor's Nurses. an organization the American

3 things to tell

tant mothers!

1. For Acid Indigestion

TUMS work quickly, safely to neutralize excess acids that so often accompany pregnancy! No danger of over-alkalizing or "acid rebound."

2. For Heartburn

TUMS effective soothing action eliminates the discomfort of heartburn... cools and corrects that burning "acid feeling."

3. For Gas

TUMS carefully formulated antacid ingredients gently relieve stomach gas, and actually coat the stomach walls to bring long-lasting relief!

Effective Tums are high in precious calcium content, too. & FOR UPSET STOMAC

Send this coupon to Lewis-Howe Co., Dept. 6RN, 319 S. 4th St., St. Louis 2, Mo., for a professional sample of TUMS in a metal carrier.

Name _____

LEWIS-HOWE COMPANY

RN · OCTOBER 1959 21

Nurses' Association says is a "commercial enterprise...not recognized by professional associations in the health field."

Recently the Federal Trade Commission charged that this registry misrepresents itself as a nonprofit organization when actually it's "purely and simply a money-making operation..."

In Florida, the attorney general has ruled that the registry, which maintained a Florida address at the time, violated the state's Nursing Practice Act.

The attorneys general of Wisconsin and California have ruled it's illegal for any non-R.N. in

those states to represent herself as a "D.N." (Doctor's Nurse) or an "R.D.N." (Registered Doctor's Nurse).

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Reportedly, the registry's membership has now been taken over by a new Washington, D.C., organization called the American Association of Doctor's Nurses.

Surgeon Favors Open-Air Treatment of Incision

Open-air treatment of surgical wounds has been "highly satisfactory" in more than 100 cases, says Dr. William A. Shafer, Erie (Pa.) neurosurgeon, in a report to his state medical society.



NEW KNOX BLAND DIETS BROCHURE can provide time-saving dietary guidance

Modern management of gastritis, hyperacidity and peptic ulcer¹ continues to stress the valuable role of bland diets in these conditions. You can save considerable time and avoid tiresome repetition by suggesting the new Knox Bland Diets Brochure. Based on a recent review of the literature, BLAND DIETS in Gastritis and Peptic Ulcer presents basic facts patients need to know about bland foods, frequent feedings and high protein diet. Easily individualized, this new Knox Brochure enables the ambulatory, unhospitalized patient to progress from a soft bland diet to a permanent bland diet via four specific menus.

1. Kirsner, J. B.: J.A. M.A. 166: 1727, (April 5) 1958.

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The technique keeps the wound clean, he finds, even in areas where staph infection may be present.

Here's the procedure:

¶ The O.R. dressing is removed the day after surgery, and the sutured wound is left open thereafter.

¶ A nurse washes the wound twice daily with sterile water and plain soap, observing sterile technique. (She uses either small cotton pledgets or gauze squares.)

¶ After washing away blood elements, serum, and other debris, she rinses with sterile water to remove the soap.

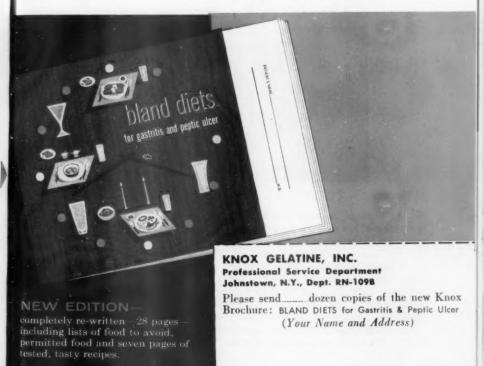
No antiseptic is used, adds Dr. Shafer, and no antibiotic is given at any time.

Blue Cross Tries Out Home Nursing Plan

Would an illness cost less if home nursing care were used to shorten the hospital stay? If so, how much would the savings amount to?

To find the answers to these questions, New York City's Blue Cross offered home nursing care to selected patients in a five-year experiment that ended in 1957. The final report shows that:

The first 500 patients stayed in the hospital sixteen days less



per patient than they would have without home care, according to their doctors' estimates.

¶ This saved an estimated \$177,-000 in hospital charges. After subtracting \$25,000 for home nursing care, the saving amounted to an average of \$152 per patient, with a similar saving per patient to Blue Cross.

¶ By going home early, these 500 patients freed their hospital beds for an estimated 700 patients who could have used them an average of eleven days each.

As a result of the experiment, the state insurance law was recently amended to authorize Blue Cross reimbursement for specified home services.

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The Social Security Administration reports that at least six Blue Cross plans are experimenting with a second method they hope will reduce hospitalization costs: using nursing homes.

capsules

A Philadelphia drug-supply firm is reportedly hiring nurses to solicit orders from M.D.s by phone . . .

Ten-second urinalysis: A new dipand-read test using a paper strip



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1. The Food Exchange Lists referred to are based on material in "Meal Planning with Exchange Lists" prepared by Committees of the American Diabetes Association Inc. and The American Dietetic Association in cooperation with the Chronit Disease Program, Public Health Service, Department Health, Education and Welfar

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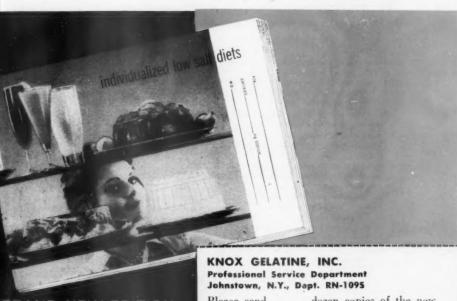
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re-written cover to cover, 40 pages of latest information on low sodium diets, including 15 pages of kitchen tested recipes, list of manufacturers of low sodium foods and table showing sodium content of drinking water in major U. S. cities.

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A nursing technique or method you've learned that other nurses would find helpful;

How you (or a nurse you know) have successfully coped with a personal problem related, for example, to your pay or your professional advancement or your working conditions;

Some unusual and worthwhile step your local (or other) nurses' group has taken to help the nursing profession;

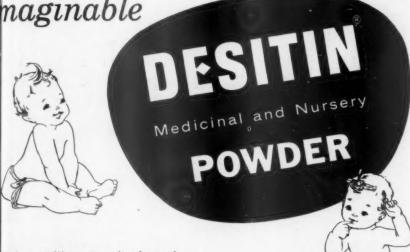
What it's like to work in a particular nursing specialty or to nurse in an unusual situation. Your article will have the best chance of winning an Award (a) if it's chock-full of specific examples, cases, anecdotes, and experiences; (b) if it does not preach or lecture the reader; (c) if it's written conversationally and simply yet colorfully; (d) if it does not exceed 1,500 words.

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Entries must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 1960, and addressed to RN, Oradell, N.J. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced, on one side of the paper, and accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

All manuscripts will be acknowledged, but those rejected may not be returned until after the close of the contest. RN's editors will be the judges; their decisions will be final.

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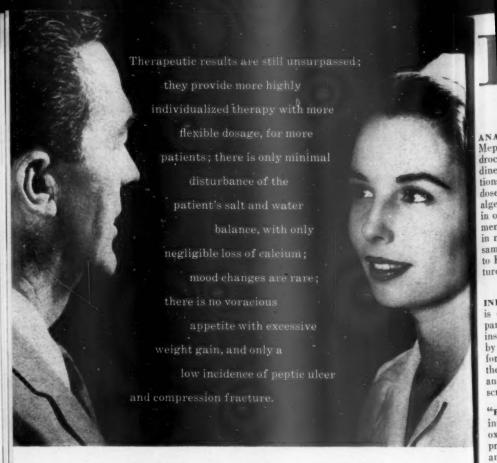
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INFANT FEEDING: A 16-page booklet is entitled "Modern Methods of Preparing Baby's Formula". It contains instructions and suggestions developed by pediatricians, nurses and hospitals for use in baby care classes throughout the country. Evenflo nursing bottles and accessories are illustrated and described. PYRAMID RUBBER CO. K-2

"BAREFOOT FREEDOM": This is the intriguing name of a low-heeled lace oxford, built according to exclusive principles to insure maximum comfort and support. The makers offer a booklet, "The Story of the Lace Oxford".

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FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS: Every conceivable item for the preparation and handling of food within the hospital is illustrated and described in a forty-eight page color catalog, of interest to nurses who share responsibility for the selection of such equipment. BLOOMFIELD INDUSTRIES, INC. K-4

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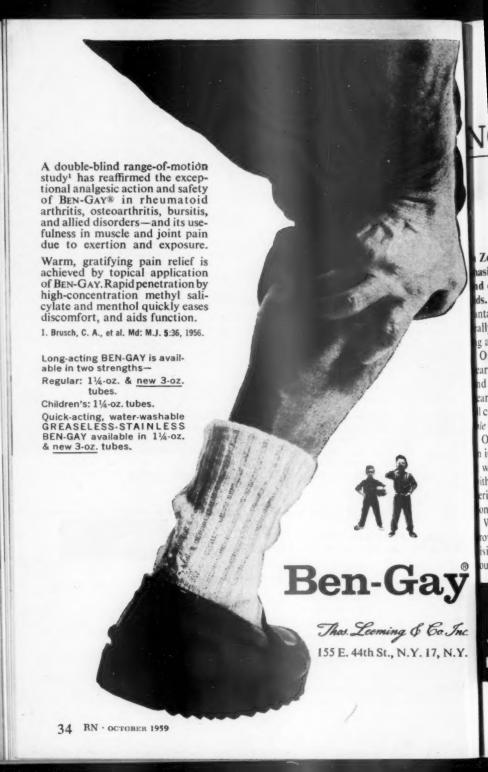
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True-Zenith has achieved great progress in making hearing aids smaller and less conspicuous, but we have never sacrificed hearing aid quality and performance for size. Zenith and Zenith dealers will always place cosmetic advantages second to hearing aid performance.

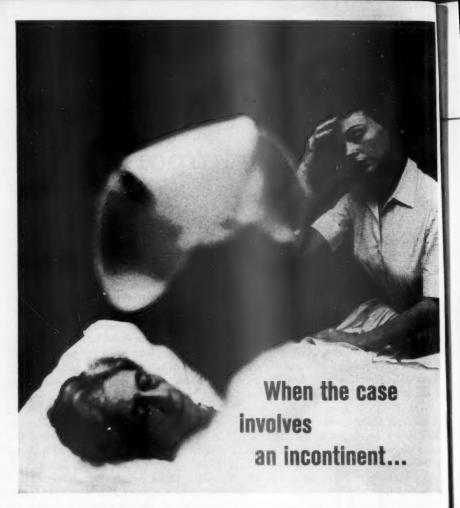
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A modern, precision hearing aid can bring a wonderful new life to the hardof-hearing. Helping them to enjoy its full benefits is a privilege-and a challenge-to us. It's part of the Zenith Crusade.



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RN

A Patient's-Eye View of Hospital Nurses

No R.N. worthy of the title needs to be told that the aid and comfort she gives her patient are the very basis of her profession—deserving at all times of her first attention.

Yet, under the pressure of heavy schedules, some nurses, says the author, forget to put first things first.

Her prescription: See yourself as your patients see you. This article can be your mirror.

By Genevieve Burton, R.N., ED.D.

At best, a hospital is a poor substitute for the comfort and security of a home; at worst, it can be a house of horror.

We nurses realize this fact. But long familiarity sometimes makes us forget it. When we do, we fail in one of our most important duties, namely: to make the patient as comfortable as possible at all times and in all situations.

The nurse who has had the experience of being a hospital patient herself before she entered nursing has an advantage over most of us. She remembers just how scared *she* was when the hospital was still a strange place!

She also realizes that every hospital patient is fearful in some degree, depending on circumstances. And she does every-

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thing she can to lessen his fear and make him feel at home.

For the rest of us, it's worth a moment to think through the experiences an incoming patient faces and think how he feels about each one.

Take the case of Mrs. J., a woman in her forties. At the time she's admitted for a series of tests, she's worrying about her yet-undiagnosed condition.

Suddenly she finds herself in a wholly unfamiliar world. She's without the security of her family. She's dependent upon strangers—people trained their duties, it's true, but strangers none the less.

Disturbing questions flit through her mind—questions for which there may be no answers: "How long will I be here? I wonder whether I have an incurable disease? . . ."

A busy admitting nurse shows Mrs. J. to a four-bed ward. The nurse doesn't bother to introduce the other three patients. (Nor do their curious stares help any.)

THE AUTHOR is a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. This article approximates a portion of her new book, "Personal, Impersonal, and Interpersonal Relations: A Guide for Nurses" (Springer Publishing Company, Inc., New York, N.Y. \$2.75.).

Soon a young man in white appears, mumbles his name (it sounds like Dr. Mmmfff), and abruptly examines Mrs. J. He also asks numerous questions, all of which she has previously answered for her own doctor. But the interne ("Is that who he is?" she wonders) tells her nothing to relieve her anxiety.

She Gets Stabbed

Her apprehension mounts as a young woman, also in white, arrives with a basket of tubes and bottles. "I'm going to stick your finger," says the young lady —then suddenly does so with a small blade.

Mrs. J. watches, mystified, as this stranger sucks a drop of blood into a tiny tube. Then she watches the stranger ("Is she a nurse or what?") jab a needle into her arm and withdraw more blood. Meanwhile, the young lady says nothing about the whys and wherefores of these painful procedures.

Later, a woman in green appears with a supper tray. Mrs. J. nibbles at the food without relish. Later still, a nurse gives her a capsule and tells her to sleep well. (She doesn't.)

Around dawn, another nurse

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comes in to give Mrs. J. an enema. This further mystifies her, since she isn't the least bit constipated. But the nurse offers no explanation.

When the breakfast trays are passed to the other patients, Mrs. J. is told she isn't to get any breakfast. But the green-

clad woman does not say why.

Around midmorning, another green-clad woman takes Mrs. J. "to X-ray." The long ride in a wheel chair is followed by a long wait, much confusion, curt orders, and finally another long wait in the corridor till still another woman in [More on 90]

Rx for Getting Names Right

By J. Hugh Clissold

Few thing are as irritating as hearing one's name mispronounced. When the same person mispronounces it time after time, irritation becomes fury.

"Why," fumes the victim, "can't that nurse learn my name is Kowalcik?"

He pronounces it Kowall-chick. Perhaps the nurse has been saying Kowull-sick.

Anyone could make such an error. But it's no way for a nurse to win her patient's confidence. So here's what to do about it:

Ask the admitting office to write unusual names phonetically on the history sheet, after the actual spelling. For example:

GIALLOMBARDO, Rita (Mrs. Victor) (Jee-a-lombardo).

Then transfer the phonetic spelling to the name card on the door or at the bottom of the patient's bed. And the first time you call her by name, ask her if you've pronounced it right.

No need to do it for all names. Just the hard-to-say ones. Your patient will be happy that you cared enough to want to be correct.

Risk Cases.



... and if she does, is she entitled to extra pay? Here's what doctors, registry directors, nursing directors, and the nurses themselves say

By Myrna Cartwright, R.N.

The private duty nurse often finds herself in a quandary when she gets a call to go on a risk case. Her moral and professional sense of duty may urge her to say "Yes" while her family obligations and other circumstances may dictate "No." Finally she may say "No"—then feel on the defensive about it.

She knows her refusal may inconvenience the registry director, the doctor, and (in some cases) the hospital. She has a haunting fear that perhaps another nurse won't be available, and thus her refusal may actually prove harmful to the patient.

HOULD THE PRIVATE DUTY NURSE ALWAYS ACCEPT THEM?

She wishes there were some clear-cut principles she could follow in each case.

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By and large, just what is the viewpoint of the medical profession toward this problem? Do most doctors and nurses think the private duty nurse should accept risk cases? Should she accept every risk case she's offered, or only some of them?

And what about extra pay for such cases? It *does* exist in some cities and states. (Private duty nurses in Vermont, for example, are paid extra for nursing mental patients, those with infectious diseases, the drug-addicted, and alcoholics.) Is the profession in general for or against extra pay?

To get representative answers to these questions, RN queried a national cross-section of doctors, registry directors, nursing directors, and private duty nurses themselves. Here, in summary, are their opinions:

¶ With few exceptions, they agree that *every* private duty nurse should accept *some* risk cases.

¶ Two out of three believe she is *not* obligated to accept *every* risk case.

¶ Three out of five believe she is *not* entitled to receive extra pay.

One encouraging aspect of this survey: Doctors' opinions on the subject are much the same as those of nursing directors and rank-and-file nurses. They differ significantly in just one respect:

Only a *third* of the nurses queried think the private duty nurse should receive extra pay for risk cases. But *half* the doctors think she should!

Now, what are the main reasons behind the opinion that *all* private duty nurses should accept *some* risk cases?

First, it's a matter of professional and moral obligation, say

many. Dr. Homer L. Pearson Jr., chairman of the Judicial Council of the American Medical Association (which rules on ethical questions) puts it thus:

'A Moral Obligation'

"Nursing is an 'all-out' career. The nurse didn't choose it because it's easy. On the contrary, she knows it's hazardous in many instances. But as long as she's a nurse, she has a moral obligation to nurse any patient who needs her help. Naturally, she'll take advantage of available means to protect herself, such as immunization, asepsis, etc."

Second, many believe the traditional concept of risk cases is outdated and unrealistic. They point out that the risk from streptococcus- or staphylococcus-infected patients is as great today as that from the so-called risk-case patients.

Says Dr. Albert W. Snoke, director of the Grace-New Haven (Conn.) Community Hospital: "The traditional separation of one type of case from another is archaic. The problems of a complicated neurosurgical, thoracic, or cardiovascular surgical patient require just as much, if not more, nursing skill and attention

as do those of mental illness or the other 'risk' cases."

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Adds Dr. James L. Wilson, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases at the University of Michigan Medical School: "There's little risk today under ordinary circumstances from patients who have, say, meningitis or tuberculosis. And in all probability the nurse is already immune to the more common contagious diseases."

Shirley Thompson, nursing director at the University of Oregon Medical School Hospital, sums up the nurses' majority opinion thus: "It's past time for us to adopt the viewpoint that the nurse cares for all patients, regardless of their diseases!"

With these points and many more to back up their reasoning, just why do two-thirds of the respondents seem to change their minds when answering the second question? Why do they agree that the private duty nurse is not obligated to accept every risk case she's called on?

They recognize human limitations. They know that the best nurse is often the one who realizes when her knowledge and strength aren't adequate to care for a particular patient. They recognize that the private duty nurse may have family commitments that rightfully make her say no at times.

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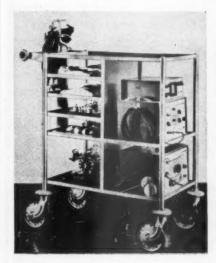
The Committee on Ethical Standards of the American Nurses' Association points out: "Each nurse has other obligations in addition to those related to her profession. So when a conflict arises, it's her responsibility to make . . . a decision in the light of her particular situation."

This doesn't mean the A.N.A.

or the profession in general approves of any nurse using such reasons falsely to avoid risks.

Says Blanca Jo Gothard, director of the official registry in Denver, Colo.: "The nurse makes her qualifications known to the registrar, including her limitations. The registrar should make sure she doesn't assign an R.N. to cases the R.N. isn't prepared to handle, or to patients she's not physically able to nurse. But once the registrar has made her choice, she expects the nurse to ac- [More on 80]

'BRING THE CARDIAC CRASH CART!'



That's an order nurses may soon be hearing and passing on to others as more hospitals start using the new crash cart shown here. Designed with the help of staff members at Grasslands Hospital, Valhalla, N.Y., the cart has space for most equipment normally needed to combat cardiopulmonary emergencies. The items it carries include (left) oxygen, drugs, thoracotomy and endotracheal sets, and a suction pump: (right) a pacemaker and a defibrillator.



GIVING OXYGEN THERAPY

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t took Cathy Grant (as I'll call her) just twenty minutes to discover how much she'd forgotten about oxygen therapy.

It was her first day of duty after several years away from the bedside. And she entered the ward as excited as a brand new probie. Then she saw the oxygen therapy patients: one with a catheter, two in masks, one in a hood, one in a tent.

Cathy spent the next twenty minutes studying the array of complex-looking equipment that served each patient. Then she gave up and reported to the supervisor that she just couldn't handle the new O₂ equipment.

Fortunately, the hospital had

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If your knowledge of how to use old and new O₂ equipment needs brushing up a bit, Cathy Grant's experience will help you

By Frances B. Arje, R.N.

a program of in-service training in oxygen therapy. So Cathy was able to learn what she needed to know in a short time.

"It was lucky for me I didn't try to bluff it through," Cathy told me later. "When I was finally ready to give oxygen, I drew a patient who really put me through my paces!"

Because Cathy's experience covers most phases of oxygen therapy, I present it here much as she told it to me.

Said Cathy: Mr. Carter, an accident victim with chest injuries, was unconscious from shock and loss of blood when they brought him to my ward. Dr. Phipps, the resident, pre-

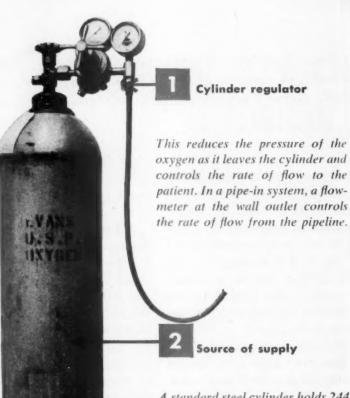
scribed oxygen by mask under moderate pressure, at 90 per cent concentration.

I knew there was no piped oxygen outlet in the ward; so I had the porter go to the fireproof closet and wheel in a cylinder and other needed equipment. We had no special cylinder base available, so the porter helped me lash the heavy cylinder to the head of the bed to prevent its tipping over and damaging the regulator.

Now I was all set with the basic equipment needed for any form of oxygen therapy: (1) a regulator, (2) a supply of oxygen, and (3) an administering apparatus.

More

The Three Basic Parts of Oxygen Therapy Equipment



A standard steel cylinder holds 244 cubic feet of 99.5 per cent pure oxygen at a pressure of 2,200 pounds per square inch and at a temperature of 70 degrees F. Where a pipein system is used instead, a cylinder manifold or bulk-storage tanks may be the source of supply.



3 Administering apparatus

Mask: Numerous styles are available; all have a face piece, a breathing bag, and straps to hold the mask in place.



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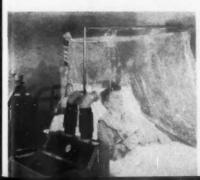
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linder tanks Hood: An air injector (concentration meter) is attached to the cylinder regulator outlet to provide ventilation inside the hood.



Catheter: A humidifier is attached to the cylinder regulator outlet to moisten the oxygen. The tip of the catheter is lubricated.



Tent: Numerous types are available; all provide means of regulating humidity and temperature and all permit the escape of CO₂.

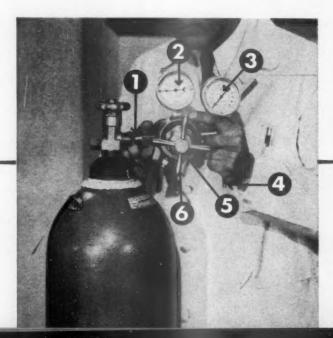
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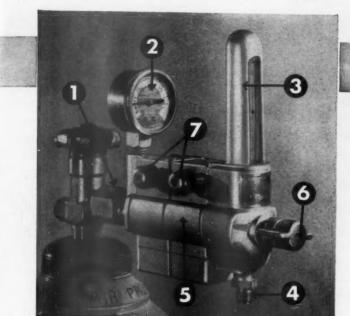
Three Common Types of Cylinder Regulator

These regulators appear different at a casual glance, but all have the following parts in common: (1) a regulator inlet; (2) a cylinder contents gauge; (3) a literflow gauge (one type has a round-faced Bourdon gauge; the others have a tube-shaped Thorpe gauge called a flowmeter); (4) a regulator outlet to which oxygen tube, air injector, or humidifier may be attached; (5) a regulator mechanism; and (6) a regulator flow-adjusting handle.

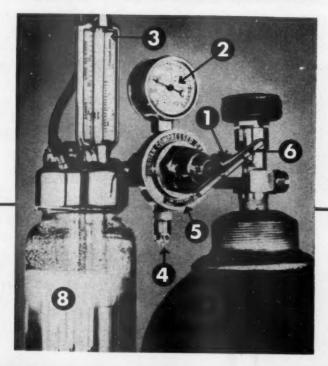
Parts the regulators do not have in common are (7) escape valves on the regulator mechanism and (8) a permanently attached humidifier.

(Cylinders are always "cracked" before regulators are attached by opening valve slightly to blow dust from cylinder outlet, then closing quickly.) More

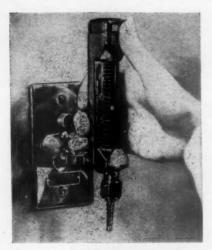




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GIVING OXYGEN THERAPY



Piped-in oxygen flow is regulated by a flowmeter and valve which are attached to wall outlet.

Nasal catheter set-up must include a humidifier as well as oxygen tubing and a connected catheter.



I opened the cylinder valve slowly until the needle on the contents gauge stopped moving. Next I turned the flow-adjusting valve until the flowmeter registered twelve liters per minute. (See Liter Flow Requirements, page 55.) Then, picking up the mask, I rotated the calibrated disk on the face piece to get low positive pressure.

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As I put the mask over Mr. Carter's nose and mouth, I adjusted the head band just tight enough so it would hold the mask firmly in place but wouldn't cut off circulation in Mr. Carter's head, face, or neck.

Now I increased pressure gradually for fifteen minutes until I'd reached the prescribed maximum. At the same time, I reduced the flow of oxygen to nine liters per minute. Mr. Carter was now beginning to regain consciousness. At the end of the prescribed period, I reduced the pressure gradually.

He Got Panicky

Suddenly Mr. Carter opened his eyes and looked wildly in my direction. Then he tried to pull off his mask.

I grabbed his hands. "That's an oxygen mask, Mr. Carter," I

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hat's er," I said soothingly. "You must leave it on. You've been in an accident and you're in the hospital. The oxygen will help you breathe easier until you feel better."

Mr. Carter nodded and dropped his hands to the side of the bed. But in a few minutes he was clawing at the mask again.

I got an orderly to hold his hands. Then I put in a call for Dr. Phipps.

I knew that severe anoxia often causes so much nervousness and loss of judgment that the patient won't accept an oxygen mask. But Mr. Carter needed more than a 60 per cent concentration. So we *had* to keep him in a mask or a hood (see table, page 52).

They Switched to a Hood

When Dr. Phipps arrived, he decided that Mr. Carter's reaction to the mask was adding to the strain on his heart and lungs. So he ordered a hood.

The oxygen therapist brought in a new cylinder that had an air injector on the regulator. I marked our first cylinder "In Use" so that anyone who picked it up later would know it was only partly full.

The therapist put ice in the

pocket at the top of the hood while I adjusted the air injector. "It gets mighty hot inside these plastic hoods if you don't keep the ice pocket filled," he said.

Regulating the Flow

I rotated the injector meter disk so that the hole at top center gave the prescribed 90 per cent concentration. Then I turned up the oxygen until the flowmeter registered a maximum fifteen.

As I removed the patient's mask, the therapist popped the hood over Mr. Carter's head and secured it. In a few minutes I turned down the oxygen to thirteen.

Next morning when I came on duty, Mr. Carter greeted me



Air injector (concentration meter) is used with some masks and all hoods. It mixes oxygen with room air and washes out carbon dioxide.

INSTRUCTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS OF

(Precautions are set in boldface type)

FACE MASKS (ALL TYPES)

Read manufacturer's instructions.

Turn on oxygen.

Put mask in place during expiratory phase of patient's respiration.

Fit mask snugly to prevent oxygen leakage, but don't fit so tightly that you stop circulation.

Regulate liter flow.

If breathing bag collapses completely when the patient inhales, increase liter flow. Check for leaks.

An air injector (concentration meter) may be attached to cylinder regulator. Set injector disk to prescribed concentration.

Remove mask every two hours. Wash and dry patient's face and interior of face piece. Use powder or vanishing cream on patient's face.

FACE MASKS (NASAL)

Use only if patient is conscious, cooperative, and isn't mouth breather.

FACE MASKS (ORONASAL)

Use if patient is unconscious or mouth breather.

FACE MASKS (POSITIVE-PRESSURE)

(The mask may be designed for positive pressure on inhalation, on exhalation, or both.)

Set to prescribed pressure by rotating calibrated disk on face piece.

Start at lowest pressure; take ten

to fifteen minutes to reach maximum prescribed. After prescribed time, reduce pressure gradually.

HEAD HOODS

(Many diverse designs for infants, children, and adults. May be called hood, croup tent, aerosol tent, or humidity hood, depending upon attachments. Usually made of clear, hard plastic. May or may not have a base on which patient's head rests.)

ITIONSOR USING OXYGEN EQUIPMENT

Read manufacturer's instructions.

Use air injector (concentration meter) to assure adequate ventilation.

Fill ice compartment, if any.

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If the hood has no ice compartment, observe patient closely for discomfort due to excessive heat.

If hood has ice compartment, replace ice as necessary.

Attach humidifier, nebulizer, or

any other equipment as ordered.

Turn on oxygen.

Place hood over patient's head.

If hood has no plastic sleeve at neck opening, use towel to prevent oxygen leakage.

Use small, flat pillow to support head and neck.

Check oxygen concentration every two to four hours with oxygen analyzer.

CATHETERS

(French, sizes 8 to 18; or plastic disposable catheters, various sizes.)

Select largest-size catheter patient can tolerate.

Measure distance from tip of patient's nose to ear lobe, using catheter. Subtract half inch and mark this distance on catheter with adhesive tape.

Attach humidifier to liter flow outlet.

Use humidifier with any administering apparatus that bypasses mucous membranes of nose and throat. This applies to "shallow" (nasopharyngeal), "deep" (oropharyngeal), and intratracheal administration of oxygen via tracheostomy.

Add tubing, connector, and catheter.

Turn on oxygen.

Lubricate tip of catheter with water-soluble jelly and test for patency of holes in tip of catheter by placing it in glass of water.

Hold catheter in position of greatest "droop," tilt patient's head back, introduce catheter gently into nostril, insert to measured distance.

Keep oxygen flowing while testing and inserting catheter.

Ask patient to open his mouth: look to see that catheter is in correct position just behind uvula. If not, adjust so that it's in the correct position.

Secure catheter in place by taping it to patient's cheek and temple. Use cellophane or adhesive tape. More

CATHETERS (Cont.)

Be sure catheter rests on floor of nasal passage.

Fasten oxygen tube to pillow with safety pin and rubber band.

Be sure that pinning to pillow doesn't pinch oxygen tube and that tube isn't kinked.

Remove catheter every twelve

hours, and replace with clean, freshly lubricated catheter in alternate nostril. Replace more often if patient has much mucus secretion.

Each time you change catheter, put tape in different spot on patient's face.

TENTS (ALL TYPES)

Read manufacturer's instructions.

Assemble tent outside patient's

Avoid long tube that may become kinked and shut off oxygen.

Wheel to bedside with tent canopy folded up over support rods.

Have oxygen flowing at "flood" (fifteen liters per minute) before putting tent over patient.

Tuck edges of tent well under mattress to prevent oxygen loss. Avoid brushing tent against patient's face when you fold it off support rods.

After fifteen minutes, turn oxy-

gen down to ten or twelve liters per minute.

Check concentration in tent every two to four hours with oxygen analyzer.

Before using unfamiliar oxygen analyzer, always read manufacturer's instructions.

Check temperature and humidity frequently.

Watch cylinder content gauge. An empty cylinder may make tent a death trap!

Flood tent with oxygen each time you close tent after giving patient care.

TENTS (OPEN-TOP OR BOX)

Don't allow drafts to blow across top of tent and scoop out oxygen.

TENTS (ICE-COOLED INJECTOR)

Attach air injector meter to outlet ice; keep ice supply adequate; empof cylinder regulator.

Use grapefruit-size chunks of

ty drip pans frequently.

Be sure water drain is working.

If soda lime is used to wash out patient's exhaled carbon dioxide,

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renew supply every twenty-four hours.

TENTS (FORCED CIRCULATION)

Make certain cool, dry air doesn't blow directly on patient.

TENTS (ELECTRICALLY REFRIGERATED)

Turn tent switch to "On" and adjust temperature control before you put patient in tent.

Report frayed cords, damaged

plugs, or any fault in electrical parts. Have them fixed promptly. Use other administering apparatus until tent is fixed.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING ANY OXYGEN THERAPY EQUIPMENT

Use only equipment that's in good working condition.

Always mark an opened cylinder "In Use" or "Empty."

Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and storing apparatus.

Put "No Smoking" signs where they're sure to be seen, but don't rely on signs alone: Keep your eye on patients, visitors, and hospital personnel, including physicians.

Disconnect call bells, radios, and phones in patient's vicinity. Ban electric heating pads and razors.

Never use grease or oil on any part of equipment.

Remove from room all cigarettes, matches, alcohol, lighter fluid, and other inflammables.

LITER FLOW REQUIREMENTS

(in liters per minute)

	Oxygen Concentration		
Apparatus	40%	50-60%	100%
Face mask	. 4	6	10
Head hood	. 6	8	14
Tent	. 10	12	. unlikely
Catheter	.5-7	i0i	mpossible

More

jovially. He seemed so much improved that Dr. Phipps decided to discontinue oxygen.

I watched the patient closely for a time and soon noticed that he started to yawn every few minutes. His pulse and respiration went up and he told me: "I feel like I couldn't fight my way out of a paper bag!"

Oxygen Needed Again

Recognizing the symptoms of mild anoxia, I called Dr. Phipps. He ordered a 40 per cent concentration of oxygen by deep nasal catheter. I took all the usual precautions for administration by catheter. (See Instructions and Precautions, page 53.)

After two days Mr. Carter was still pretty uncomfortable. His nose hurt, he said, and he felt restless.

Treated for 'Wet Lung'

The next time Dr. Phipps came around, he told me the patient had developed a small patch of "wet lung" and should be kept on oxygen until it cleared up. "We'll put him in a tent," he said, "to give his nose a rest and to allow him to move about a bit."

I followed standard procedure

in setting up and operating the tent (see chart, page 54). Before using the oxygen analyzer, I remembered to test the room air to be sure the analyzer worked properly. When the test showed a normal 21 per cent oxygen content in the air, I knew the analyzer was accurate.

I planned Mr. Carter's nursing care so I wouldn't have to open the tent very often. Each time I did open it, I turned the flow up to fifteen for about fifteen minutes afterwards. Then I checked the concentration with an oxygen analyzer before reducing to normal flow.

The Danger of Fire

Because some oxygen escaped into the room every time I opened the tent, I was particularly careful of the fire hazard. From the moment I'd started giving oxygen, I'd constantly kept in mind that I was working with a gas that supports combustion. (See Safety Precautions, page 55.)

I'd even told Mr. Carter he couldn't use his electric razor because of the spark hazard. He'd responded by letting his beard grow!

The day he [More on 78]

Exploding Those MENOPAUSE MYTHS



Jane E. Hodgson, M.D., (above) gives mature, down-to-earth answers to questions that women often ask about the menopause

So many harmful distortions, half-truths, and falsehoods have collected about the subject of the menopause that even the nurse may sometimes find herself confused.

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One nurse, for instance, may decide that menopausal symp-

toms are mostly psychosomatic and that, as a member of the healing profession, she should set an example for others by ignoring the menopause when it comes. Then what happens? Perhaps her climacteric begins sooner than she expected. Or

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maybe it's more severe than she thought it would be. So she becomes unstrung and panicky. She starts fighting her symptoms. And the harder she fights, the more trying the symptoms become.

A second nurse may do just the opposite. She has observed severe symptoms in some of her patients; so she expects the worst. She steels herself to meet this period of life bravely. But it turns out that her climacteric doesn't start till she's in her fifties, and then it's very mild.

This lucky break would be wonderful if she had approached the subject in a matter-of-fact way. But she didn't. So now she worries needlessly about difficulties that never appear. She even works up some psychosomatic symptoms that are real and painful and that her doctor finds it hard to relieve.

The common-sense nurse obviously avoids these extremes of attitude. She accepts the menopause as a natural event. She knows its hazards are ones she can avoid or learn to bear. And she encourages her patients to take the same attitude.

Actually, no woman should fear the menopause. For, as any

nurse knows, it's a normal physiological change, a simple cessation of menstrual activity.

B

Many of the accompanying discomforts aren't unique to this period of life. Most women experienced similar discomforts at the onset of the menses in their teen years.

Questions Answered

My women patients ask me many questions about the menopause. Those that follow aren't necessarily the ones they ask most often. Rather, I've selected them because I believe they're of most interest to the nurse:

Q. When may I expect the menopause to start?

A. In your mid-forties, on the average. But don't be surprised if it starts as early as your thirties or as late as your fifties. Some women vary widely from the average.

Q. What are the usual symptoms?

A. A gradual cessation of the menses, of course, with your periods becoming irregular. You may have headaches and hot flashes. You may also go through periods of fright or depression or irritability.

Nearly every woman fifty or

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older has a few mild hot flashes. But not more than 15 per cent of all women ever have severe flashes.

Actually, most experience on-

ly minor discomfort during the menopause. And some don't experience any physical or emotional upset at all. They simply stop menstruating.

More

We Cure Bedsores With Sheepskin

By Luther Davis Jr., M.D.

Are you losing the battle against bedsores? We're winning it with wool!

We've found that the wool of a sheepskin meets all the requirements for preventing ulcers and promoting healing: It's resilient and airy, it distributes pressure evenly. it dissipates moisture, and it doesn't wrinkle or chafe.

We spread the sheepskin on the bed, woolly side up. After three to seven days, we remove it and clean it by scrubbing with soapy water and rinsing with a garden hose. Then we dry it in the sunlight because artificial heat would ruin the leather. Finally, we fluff up the wool with a brush and put the skin back on the bed.

My nurses remind me when it's time to start sheepskin therapy. I prescribe sheepskin for long-term patients who (1) are thin, (2) are subject to continual chafing from dressings and bedcovers, (3) can't turn at will, (4) can't control bowel or bladder function, or (5) have a loss of sensation or of muscular-vascular tone.

One patient had a decubitus ulcer so deep it exposed the sacrum. Twenty days on a sheepskin cured him. An apoplectic patient who was bedridden at home for three years wore out two sheepskins—but he didn't develop a single sore.

END

Q. How long does the menopause last?

A. Usually two to three years, though again some women vary widely from the average.

Occasionally a woman continues to have hot flashes even though her menses have stopped. This usually indicates that her ovaries are continuing to secrete small amounts of hormones. The condition is nothing to be alarmed about—in fact, just the opposite. For it's now thought that these ovarian hormones help to stave off hardening of the arteries and coronary disease.

Q. How does the menopause affect a woman's sex life?

A. There's no organic reason why the menopause should either decrease or increase sexual desire and satisfaction. Some women do become frigid at this time, but it's entirely because of emotional upset. On the other hand, a few have such an increase in libido that it makes them restless and uncomfortable.

After the menopause is completed and pregnancy is no longer a hazard, many women have more desire and achieve sexual satisfaction more often.

Q. Is pregnancy possible during the menopause?

A. Yes, as long as you're menstruating. But during this period in life, you do not ovulate every time you menstruate. Hence, the chance of your becoming pregnant decreases, usually from the forties right to the end of the menopause.

Q. What can the doctor do to relieve severe symptoms?

A. In my opinion, the use of tranquilizers is sometimes indicated. They lessen depression and irritability and offset the insomnia sometimes caused by hot flashes. Thyroid extract is indicated for the patient who's suffering from hypothyroidism brought on by hormonal changes.

Do Sex Hormones Help?

Estrogens are also used, but some doctors give them only to the severely distraught patient for temporary relief. They reason this way: The patient's natural supply of estrogen will soon cease. Her body has to adjust to this loss. So why prolong the period of adjustment by boosting her estrogen level temporarily?

Most doctors do not favor the use of the male hormone androgen. Although some gave it in the past to [More on 86]

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SENATOR HUMPHREY AIDS NURSES SEEKING B.S. DEGREES

The Minneapolis R.N.s who nursed friendly young Nancy Humphrey (above), hospitalized in 1947 as the result of an automobile accident, couldn't foresee the chain of events their able care set off.

During her hospital stay, Nancy became so inspired by the challenge of nursing that she later worked summers as an aide. Then, last year, she enrolled at the Northwestern Hospital School of Nursing.

Four months before she was capped at Northwestern, her fa-

ther, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.), shown above congratulating her, introduced Senate Bill 1118 to provide a five-year program of Federal scholarships for nurses. Under this bill, present diploma R.N.s as well as student nurses would be eligible for scholarship grants of \$1,000 a year, awarded on the basis of ability and need. These grants would be made for full-time study toward a baccalaureate nursing degree.

Senator Humphrey acknowledges that his daughter's interest in nursing inspired him to look into the nurse shortage and try to do something to help solve it.

"Do you know," he told RN recently, "that Nancy decided to enter nursing on her own? Her decision is one of the most important things that has happened to me. Nursing is a noble profession. I believe the American people are ready to honor their nurses by providing some financial help."

Nurses are as important to the public welfare as other groups now getting Federal aid, he believes. "We're giving assistance (under the National Defense Education Act) to people who are studying languages or taking specified vocational training. Why shouldn't we provide scholarships for nurses?" he asks.

The Senator's bill would ap-

propriate \$10,000,000 a year for the five-year program of scholarships. It would also appropriate \$30,000,000 a year to help collegiate nursing schools during the same period.

Representative Edith S. Green (D., Ore.) has introduced a companion bill, H.R. 1251, in the House. These measures, known together as the Humphrey-Green bill, have the support of the American Nurses' Association.

"It takes time to get legislation of this kind passed," says Senator Humphrey. "It should be discussed by medical and nursing groups and the public in general, as well as by Senate and House committees. It won't pass this year, but we're going to push hard for it. We'll keep pushing until we succeed."

e missed his chance

When I found the man still visiting with the new mother after hours, I said in my kindest voice: "I'm afraid you'll have to kiss her good night now and go home."

Like a rocket the visitor shot from the room—and the patient burst out laughing. "That wasn't my husband," she said. "That was my minister!"

—MILDRED HILL, R.N.

Radioactive Drugs

They're no more mysterious in their action than other medications, as this easy-to-follow explanation shows

By Morton J. Rodman, PH.D.

The sign on the cancer patient's door reads: "Danger—Radioactive Material."

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The duty nurse pauses a moment. She feels a vague fear similar to the fear she experiences when she sees a sign on the trolley bus: "Danger—High Voltage." But she knows—if she's experienced—that atomic radiation, like electricity, isn't dangerous when she abides by the rules for working in its presence. And she's been taught those rules well. So she shrugs off her momentary fear and enters the room.

Fortunately, such warning signs appear less and less often on patients' doors these days as the new atomic isotopes replace radium and the other natural radioactive elements in many types of treatment. Because the isotopes are created for particular purposes and are controlled in strength, the hazards accompanying some radioactive treatments are greatly lessened.

The new isotopes must be handled with respect, of course. But when used diagnostically, many of them aren't any more dangerous to the patient and to

THE AUTHOR is Professor of Pharmacology at the College of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, Newark, N. J.

those who care for him than other types of drugs are.

This increase in safety is only one of the advantages some of these isotopes have over natural radioactive elements. To understand why this is so, let's review briefly the nature of the atom. Then we'll consider just what an isotope is and what is meant by "radioactive." Finally, we'll look at some of the new radioactive isotopes and see how they do their work.

Understanding the Atom

These are the basic points to keep in mind:

¶ The atom is the building block of the universe. Just as building blocks are put together to erect structures ranging from a simple wall to a complex sky-scraper, so atoms join together to build molecules of all the chemical compounds.

¶ Scientists used to think the atom was an indivisible particle of matter. But now they know that each atom is a bundle of smaller particles, held together by interacting forces. The best-known of these particles are called protons, neutrons, and electrons.

¶ Each atom of an element

usually has the same number of particles within it. But occasionally the number of neutrons varies, making some of the atoms of the same element weigh more than others. These atoms of an element that differ in atomic weight are called *isotopes*.

¶ Most elements are stable—that is, they don't break up of their own accord. But a few elements, such as radium, are unstable. As they disintegrate, they continually throw off particles of matter and energy rays. The rays are classified as alpha, beta, and gamma radiation. This action is called radioactivity.

There's the background. Now here's what's been done to use radioactivity in the diagnosis and treatment of disease:

Early in the present century medical scientists discovered that, under proper conditions, these particles and radiation could sometimes change or destroy diseased or malignant tissue without seriously harming healthy cells. They also found that small quantities of radioactive elements could be used as tracers to check up on some biochemical activities of the body. But their use was limited in both these areas because they were

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scarce, expensive, and difficult to handle.

With the development of atomic science, it has become possible to create, artificially and at a relatively small cost, a whole new array of radioactive elements. This can be done by placing selected elements in an atomic reactor and bombarding them with neutrons. Many of the atoms are changed enough to become isotopes of their parent element. Or more important today, the waste products of an atomic pile can be used to produce such isotopes.

In either case, the isotopes immediately begin to disintegrate, emitting ionizing radiation for a predictable length of time. This action provides medicine with a marvelous new tool.

Sodium radio-iodide (I-131) is a good example of the new radioactive drugs. Given in minute traces, it helps the doctor tell whether his patient's thyroid gland is functioning normally or not. Given in larger doses, it oft-

RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES

Chromic radio-phosphate (P-32)

Radio-chromic chloride (Cr-51Cl₃)

Radio-cobalamin concentrate (Co-58 and Co-60)

Radio-cobalt chloride (Co-58 and Co-60)

Radio-ferrous citrate (Fe-59)

Radio-gold (Au-198) colloid, N.N.D.

Radioiodinated glyceryl trioleate (I-131)

Radioiodinated iodipamide sodium (I-131)

Radioiodinated methyglucamine diatriozoate (I-131)

Radioiodinated oleic acid (I-131)

Radioiodinated rose bengal solution (I-131)

Radioiodinated (I-131) serum albumin human, N.N.D.

Radio-iridium (Ir-192)

Sodium radio-chromate (Cr-51), N.N.D.

Sodium radio-iodide (I-131), N.N.D.

Sodium radio-phosphate (P-32), N.N.D.

Tritiated water (T₂O)

en controls hyperthyroidism.

If a nurse opened a capsule containing a diagnostic dose of radio-iodide, she wouldn't see a thing inside it! But the iodine atoms are there. Billions of them coat the inner surface of the capsule, each giving off particles and rays as the iodine disintegrates.

Soon after the patient swal-

Sneeze in Slow Motion



This slow-motion photograph shows how a nurse can blanket the air with staphylococci and other organisms when she comes on duty with a cold. Once airborne, these organisms float in natural air currents through the hospital's rooms, corridors, stair wells, and elevator shafts. Often they settle in areas of the building far distant from where they originated.

The close-up picture is from a new color film, "Hospital Sepsis, a Communicable Disease," sponsored by the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Hospital Association. The film was produced by means of a grant from Johnson & Johnson and was made under actual hospital conditions. It shows how staph infections are spread and what nurses and other hospital personnel can do to prevent such spread.

A loan copy of the film is available from any one of the sponsoring organizations.

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With Tampax, you can keep active, feel freeas you would any other time of the month.

Millions of vital, healthy young women use Tampax by the billions. Like you, they use it-choose it-because it helps them forget about differences in days of the month. Invented by a doctor for the benefit of all women-married or single, active or not. Proved by over 25 years of clinical study.

Tampax® internal sanitary protection is made only by Tampax Incorporated, Palmer, Mass. Samples and literature will be sent upon request to Dept. RN 109.

SO MUCH A PART OF YOUR ACTIVE

CURRENT CLINICAL STATUS OF TOPIC

At the Clinical Research Division of Helena Rubinstein,® studies devoted to the topic hormone approach to the aging-skin problem have been strongly influenced by a stated opinions of recognized clinicians as well as by results recorded in the curre medical literature. For years this group has been closely identified with dermatolog research in this phase of clinical medicine.

Aging Skin Linked with Waning Sex Hormones—Skin changes "constant accompany the advance of the climacteric." Aging female skin may appear downinkled, inelastic, and feel "thinner...less resilient."

Aging Skin and the Estrogen Decline – Marked changes of the skin occur "who the normal production of estrogen decreases."

Changes in the epidermis: "The epidermis becomes thinner and the outermost hom layer appears looser." Epithelial cells are "small in size and poorly differentiated," an "normal projections of the epidermis into the cutis...absent."

Changes in the dermis: "Flattening of the papillae...is one of the most characteristic changes." "The corium decreases in thickness with loss of elastic and collagen fibers." "Collagenous fibers grow thinner...elastic fibers...show clumping, shortening, thickening...subcutaneous fat shows degeneration...water content is reduced."

Aging Skin and the Progesterone Decline—"Progesterone...has a strikin growth-promoting effect on sebaceous glands."

Normal



Aging



Changes in Female Skin
Upon Aging – (shown schematically)
A – Epidermis B – Papilla

C - Corium D - Sebaceous Glands

Changes in sebaceous apparatus: haging skin, sebaceous glands "be come much reduced in number," "... smaller and less active."

Replacement Therapy with Toplical Hormones — "Estrogenic hor mones...progesterone...penetrate the intact skin rapidly and with great ease." Applied locally, steroids "have a profound effect upon the skin and its accessory structures."

Controlled Studies with Topica Hormones—Estrogens: Published studies 10,11,12 confirm that topical estrogens provide favorable response in aging female skin. Observations included greater succulence of the epidermal cells 11 and derma, 12 and improved elasticity. 12 Epidermal proliferation, new formation of elastic fibrils and increased vascularization were reported. 10

Oral or parenteral destrogen did not produce these effects. It was stated that "there is definite support for the anti-wrinkling effect produced by the use of hormone cosmetics, based upon (a) the thickening of the epidermis, (b) plumping of the collagen fibres."

TOPIC DRMONE THERAPY IN AGING FEMALE SKIN

enced by the rogesterone: Results of topical progesterone applications on aging female skins were to the topic mpared with those observed with estrogen creams and enriched placebos. 15 Skinrface and biopsy examinations demonstrated that progesterone creams increased the orface oil and epidermal emolliency.16

strogens Combined with Progesterone: A face cream containing 10,000 I.U. of "constant atural estrogens and 5 mg. of progesterone was tested on aging female skin.16 Surface appear draid histochemical studies revealed that nightly applications produced: a) hydration, or umping (estrogen effect), and b) increased natural oil and emolliency (progesterone fect). Controls with estrogen creams indicated that the dermatologic effect of the occur "whe ambined cream appears to be enhanced by the synergistic action of the two hormones. fects on menstrual cycles and significant changes in vaginal smears or urinary hormone scretion were not detectable. Patch tests (Schwartz-Peck and Draize-Shelansky),17 nowed freedom from irritation and sensitization.

> formone concentrations used in foregoing studies have been established to be "entirely afe"18 and free from systemic effects.

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lows the capsule, the iodine atoms enter the blood stream. The thyroid is greedy for iodine. So its tissues snatch the atoms from the blood and use them for building the hormone thyroxine.

When the doctor holds a detecting device over the patient's throat, the disintegrating iodine gives off gamma rays that pass through the patient's neck. If the device shows a normal count of rays, the doctor knows the thyroid gland has absorbed only the usual amount of iodine and is probably functioning normally. If the device shows a high count, the gland may be overactive.

Somewhat larger doses of radio-iodide are used to treat hyperthyroidism. Because most of the rays it gives off are of the short-range beta type, these rays destroy thyroid cells without damaging near-by body tissues.

A similar treatment sometimes

helps patients with angina pectoris and congestive heart trouble. After the doctor gives radioiodide, the following sequence of events occurs:

(1) The thyroid becomes less active. (2) With less thyroid secretion to stimulate them, most of the body cells also slow down biochemically. (3) They don't take as much oxygen from the blood. (4) This enables the heart likewise to slow down, giving it a better chance to repair its own tissues and to reduce the chance of heart failure.

Radio-iodide is also useful in locating "hot" cancerous thyroid tissue that has wandered to distant parts of the body. Such tissue absorbs radioactive iodine as the parent gland does, helping the doctor to find these small metastases.

Doctors have tried to treat thyroid cancer itself with radio-



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iodide. But unfortunately, only about 10 per cent of thyroid cancers will pick up this drug.

The high doses needed to knock out cancer cells in treatments such as this tend to damage bone marrow and depress blood-cell formation. Because of this destructive effect, medical men are using the new radioisotopes to fight polycythemia vera, chronic leukemia, and other blood diseases in which the bone marrow produces too many cells.

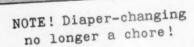
In polycythemia, for example, red cells crowd into the blood until it becomes so thick it can

barely flow. X-rays have occasionally been used to slow down this excessive blood-cell production. But to produce such an effect, the patient's whole body had to be irradiated.

Better Than X-Rays

Sodium radio-phosphate (P-32), another of the new radio-isotopes, has two advantages over X-rays for such conditions: (1) it usually slows down blood-cell production for a longer time and (2) it seldom causes radiation sickness.

Radio-phosphate is picked up



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by all rapidly growing tissues, so it's useful in locating tumors, particularly those in the eye and brain. In some hospitals, the surgeon may order an intravenous injection for the brain-tumor patient. Then, when he opens the skull, he explores with a delicate probe containing a tiny Geiger counter. By probing time and again, he maps the limits of the tumor and makes sure he gets all

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If he needs to verify that there is a tumor in the brain, or if he wants to locate the tumor before opening the skull, he can give the patient radioiodinated serum albumin. This drug sends out longrange gamma rays that go right through the skull and can be picked up by sensitive counters.

It Goes Everywhere

Radioiodinated serum albumin can also be used to get helpful information about the patient's circulatory system. Injected intravenously, it mixes with the patient's blood in ten minutes; and its atoms can easily be traced anywhere in the body.

In most of the diagnostic uses of radioisotopes we've discussed,

WHEN A GENTLE, EFFECTIVE LAXATIVE IS



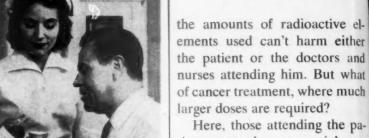
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Here, those attending the patient must observe special precautions to prevent potential radiation damage. But even so, the radioisotopes used have an important advantage over the natural radioactive elements: they decrease rapidly in strength.

Radio-gold (Au-198) provides a good example of this characteristic and what it means. This isotope is often injected into the chest or abdomen of a cancer patient. Its particles cling to the inner walls of these cavities, giving off radiation that stops fluid from forming. This action cuts down edema and relieves the patient's severe discomfort.

Meaning of 'Half-Life'

All radioactive materials have a half-life. This means that the amount of radiation they emit decreases by half within a certain time, by half the remainder within another identical length of time, and so on. The half-life of most man-made radioisotopes is measured in days.

Trained persons working with a patient who has been given a



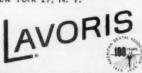
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radioisotope know exactly the original radiation level of the isotope and just how much it will decrease in stated periods. In the case of radio-gold, they know the original radiation will fall to half its original amount in less than three days, to half of that in three more days, etc.

On the day the drug is injected, the nurse may have to wear a film badge or a pocket meter to detect any possible radiation she may receive. She may have to work fast so that she stays with the patient no longer than a specified time. But on each

succeeding day, she can spend more time with the patient.

There's no substitute, of course, for a precise knowledge of the rules for working with each isotope and for proper disposal of any radioactive wastes. The nurse needs to learn these rules and to follow them carefully.

When she does, she can do her work with confidence, knowing that she's in no more danger when helping the patient who has been given a radioisotope than she is when caring for her other patients.

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78 RN · OCTOBER 1959

Giving Oxygen Therapy

Continued from 56

finally came out from under his tent, he looked like a Cuban revolutionary. "May I shave now, Boss?" he asked with a grin.

Later he said: "Mrs. Grant, you sure know how to use the gadgets. It made me feel good the minute I saw you knew what you were doing and weren't going to blow me up with all that oxygen!"

His compliment made *me* feel good too. It also made me remember what I'd learned in oxygen therapy class.

Know Your Equipment

"Unfamiliar equipment may scare you at first," the therapist had said. "But just take your time. Look it over. Think about what it's supposed to do. Figure out how each part does its work. Then read the manufacturer's instructions and they'll make sense."

He had concluded with a statement that Mr. Carter had just confirmed: "Nothing reassures the oxygen therapy patient so much as knowing that the nurse knows her job."

your doctor uses Sinutab for these reasons

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Sinutab aborts pain, decongests and relaxes your patient. Sinutab aborts pain with two analgesics, systemically opens air passages to relieve stuffiness and congestion and comforts the patient with mild tranquilization.

DOSAGE: Adults, two tablets every four hours. Prophylactically, one tablet every four hours. Children 6 to 12 years, one-half adult dose. SUPPLIED: Bottles of 30 tablets.

Risk Cases and The Private Duty Nurse

Continued from 43

cept the assignment without distinction as to risk."

Lydia Gihring, nursing director at the Swedish Hospital in Seattle, Wash., agrees. Then she adds: "It isn't the nurse who refuses a call who gives a hospital the jitters! It's the one who accepts when she doesn't have the knowledge or skill to nurse a particular patient. She's a hazard not only to herself and to the hospital, but to the patient!"

Now, what about answers to the question of extra pay for risk cases? Here there's a wider split in opinion, with 42 per cent in favor and 58 per cent against.

Of those favoring such pay, many believe it encourages more private duty nurses to accept risk cases. Dr. Goodrich C. Schauffler of Portland, Ore., says: "I think all nurses are underpaid and underappreciated. They deserve 'hazardous-duty' pay. Almost anybody, even an idealist, will do more for more!"

Dr. Willis E. Brown of the University Hospital of Little Rock, Ark., represents a second popular viewpoint: "Professional fees," he says, "should be higher when more risk and responsibility are involved."

The Private Duty Section of District II, California State Nurses' Association, supports this idea, as do many individual

nurses.

Why They Need More Pay

Ralph W. Schrader of Sun Valley, Calif., and Marian E. Babbitt of Little Rock both point out that extra pay helps replace uniforms torn by mentally ill or alcoholic patients, or spoiled by strong disinfectants used in caring for risk patients with certain infectious diseases.

"It also helps pay for sickness and accident insurance," Mr. Schrader adds, "and for a brief rest after a long and difficult case."

Mabel Branscome of Wichita, Kan., backs up Mr. Schrader's comments about the need for insurance and occasional rests.

"The private duty nurse spends eight hours daily with the risk-case patient," she points out. "Her exposure to infection of the Little second fessionould be and re-

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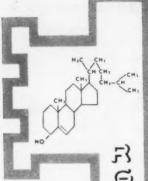
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is much greater than that of the general duty nurse who's with the patient an hour a day at the most.

"Usually the private duty nurse works right through weekends until the patient no longer needs her. If she gets sick or just too tired to work for a time, her income stops. She *must* make enough money to help her meet these hazards."

Those who oppose higher pay do so mostly on the basis that the risk-case concept is unrealistic. They say that many other types of duty are just as demanding and hazardous.

Dr. Wilson gives the majority opinion thus: "It's hard to define 'risk case' and 'hazardous duty.' Every nurse should accept the difficult with the easy as a part of her work."

One group that has had experience with higher fees for risk cases says such fees cause more trouble than they're worth. Philip E. Day, nursing director at the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington, Vt., points to the confusion in his state, and cites this example:

"Suppose a patient with an ulcer is also seeing a psychiatrist for analysis. The special who nurses a patient under psychiatric diagnosis is entitled to a risk-case fee. Should she get it in this instance? If so, does she really deserve extra pay?"

Elinor L. Keyser, a Denver nurse who has worked under both schedules, much prefers

Double puncture

The interne had performed a lumbar puncture on the victim of a cerebral vascular accident. We were still in the patient's room when the interne's pride and satisfaction erupted.

"Do you know that was my first lumbar puncture?" he asked.

Faint but clear were the words of the supposedly comatose patient: "Mine too!"

—CONNIE RYAN, R.N.

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RISK CASES

regular fees. "When we were under the extra-fee schedule," she says, "many patients didn't use specials because they couldn't, or wouldn't, pay the higher fee. The doctor was hesitant to call in a special, and sometimes changed his diagnosis to take his patient out of the extra-fee class.

"In borderline cases it was so difficult to know which patients were actually risk patients that shift nurses sometimes disagreed as to their charges for the same patient! And many nurses on regular cases felt abused because they were working harder and yet were getting less pay than those on risk cases."

It's Still a Problem

These opinions of the private duty nurse's colleagues don't, of course, solve the risk-case dilemma for her. But when she gets calls for risk cases in the future, she'll at least know what others expect of her and can use this knowledge to help her reach a decision that's best for all concerned.

One thing seems certain: Unless she lives in a favored area, she'll probably have to give up any expectation of receiving higher fees for risk cases until more of her colleagues support the idea.



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1. Macy, I. G.; Kelly, H. J., and Sloan, R. E.; with the Consultation of the Committee on Maternal and Child Feeding of the Food and Nutrition Board, National Research Council: The Composition of Milks, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Publication 254, Revised 1953. 2. Research Laboratories, Mead Johnson & Company.



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Exploding Those Menopause Myths

Continued from 60

combat severe hot flashes, they saw that this male hormone may cause hirsutism and voice changes.

Q. Can I personally do anything to help ease menopausal symptoms?

A. You can do more than the doctor can, simply by taking proper care of yourself. Of course, you should go to the doctor for regular check-ups. But in between, proper exercise, food, and rest will do you more good than medications.

When you're on duty as a nurse, you exercise some of the muscles you never use as a housewife. This is all to the good. Nursing also helps you to keep

your mind off yourself; for you obviously can't indulge in introspective worrying when you're caring for those who are ill!

Exercise counteracts the flabby tissues and spreading hips that may sneak up on you during the climacteric. Careful dieting helps, too. For with the change in metabolism that the menopause brings, you usually don't need as many calories.

Finally, you can ease nervous strain by getting plenty of rest. Try to cut down on your responsibilities. Avoid situations, both at home and at work, that you know will make you tense. Take a nap whenever you can. And be sure to schedule an occasional short vacation—a vacation from family responsibilities as well as from nursing.

Q. Should I take steps to guard against malignancy during the menopause? More

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EXPLODING THOSE MENOPAUSE MYTHS

A. Yes, definitely. This is the one area in which the nurse is often negligent. Like many doctors, she urges others to get regular physical check-ups but "can't seem to find the time" herself.

Check-Up Every 6 Months

The incidence of pelvic malignancy is highest among women during this period. So it's vital that you get a thorough examination every six months. This should not only include examination of the heart, lungs, breasts, and pelvis but should also include blood pressure, urinalysis, and hemoglobin count.

Have Papanicolaou smears taken every two years (more often if the doctor thinks the cervix looks suspicious). In between six-month visits, check your breasts yourself for any lumps. If you find something suspicious, don't hesitate about going to the doctor just because you're a nurse and don't want to appear panicked. It's much better to feel embarrassed because the doctor finds nothing suspicious than it is to let a possible malignancy go unchecked.

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90 RN · OCTOBER 1959

A Patient's-Eye View of Hospital Nurses

Continued from 39

green comes to wheel Mrs. J. to her ward.

By this time the patient is very hungry and emotionally exhausted. It's not surprising that her doctor finds her in tears when he drops by before lunch. . .

"But," you may protest, "you've exaggerated this case!"

Yes, I have. It's unlikely that one patient would undergo this much "objective" treatment by all the hospital personnel she meets in twenty-four hours or less. On the other hand, every patient faces at least some of these experiences or similar ones. And every patient knows at least some of the loneliness and despair that Mrs. J. suffered.

I agree that such seeming indifference by hospital staff members isn't deliberate. It occurs largely because they view the familiar hospital procedures through their own eyes and not those of the patient. But this fact does not excuse indifferent treatment of the patient.

Of course, the nurse can't be



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a dependable solution to "the commonest gynecologic office problem"

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Ensey, J. E.: Am. J. Obst. 77:155, 1959

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A PATIENT'S VIEW OF HOSPITAL NURSES

held responsible for the failure of non-nursing personnel to add to the patient's comfort. But she can set a good example for other members of the hospital team.

What's more, by recognizing that *she* is the nearest thing to a hostess at the hospital, she can largely counteract any adverse impressions others may make.

Just why is she a "hostess"?

For one thing, the patient thinks of her as such—even though the specific term "hostess" may not occur to him. For another, she usually sees more of the patient than any other staff

member does. So she has more opportunity to introduce others to him and, in general, to help him feel at home. She's in a key position to provide the emotional comfort that's just as important to the patient as physical comfort.

How to Be a "Hostess"

Now consider some of the specific ways in which a perceptive nurse fulfills her role as hospital hostess:

First, she introduces herself of briefly but adequately: "Good morning! I'm Miss Smith. I'll be



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A PATIENT'S VIEW OF HOSPITAL NURSES

here till eleven o'clock, then Miss Jones will be on duty."

While she's getting the patient settled, she assures him there are many fine people on the staff who are glad to help him in their capacities as internes, nurses, technicians, and aides. She explains the hospital routine:

"Dr. So-and-So will be in shortly to examine you. He's the interne." Or, "Miss Brown, our laboratory technician, will probably come in to take blood samples."

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If the patient is admitted to a ward or a semiprivate room, the nurse introduces him to those in near-by beds. Later, as circumstances require, she gives simple explanations of the procedures he'll go through. For example:

"You'll be going to the X-ray department soon. Miss Green



"O.K. if I have a friend stay for dinner?"

New Anesthetic Healing Discovery

pecially designed to relieve tense itch - speed natural healing!



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A new medicated cream that makes possible more effective relief from skin injuries has been announced by the Noxzema Chemical Company.

Unlike ordinary "first-aid creams," this new formula is not just antiseptic, but anesthetic, too! In addition to its bacteriostatic action, it works directly on nerve-endings to bring pain relief.

Identified by the trade-name "Nozain," this greaseless cream combines isobutyl-paraaminobenzoate for almost instant pain relief, with bithionol-the bacteriostatic discovery that guards open cuts from further infection and helps prevent the spread of epidermal irritations. In addition, other ingredients actually speed up the natural healing process.

In cases of intense itch it proves itself of special benefit because it quickly alleviates the pain and thus helps eliminate the patient's danger-

ous urge to scratch.

Since Nozain relieves without sting or burn, it is specially recommended for children's skin injuries. It is available in tubes at all pharmacies for over-the-counter sale.

Medicated Noxzema eases acute discomfort due to 5 kinds of skin irritation

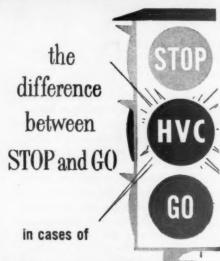
Medicated Noxzema relieves skin discomfort fast, speeds healing. It's pleasant, greaseless, non-sticky. You can recommend and use Noxzema

confidently. This famous cream has been tested and proved in home use for over 25 years. Highly suitable for the following uses:

- 1. An effective, cleansing, medicated treatment for adolescent blemishes.*
- 2. Helps heal rough, red hands. Softens, smooths, beautifies fast!
- 3. America's #1 sunburn remedy. Cools, soothes, brings relief to sunburn agony in 3 seconds.
- 4. Helps heal even difficult cases of infant diaper-rash burn.
- 5. A Noxzema massage brings immediate comfort to patients with bed-or-bandage sores.

*surface blemishes





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Contains viburaum opulus, dioscorea, prickly ash berries, aromatics and sufficient alcohol to release the resins in the crude drugs.

Patients who have been stopped by smooth muscle spasm are soon on the go again with HVC, prescribed by physicians for over ninety years as a consistently reliable sedative and smooth muscle relaxant. Symptomatic relief is both prompt and prolonged, and HVC is free from narcotics or hypnotics.

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96 RN · OCTOBER 1959

PATIENT'S VIEW OF NURSES

will take you there in a wheel chair. Then when your X-rays are finished, another aide will come to wheel you back.

"We won't be able to give you your breakfast until later this morning because we have to make a test while your stomach is still empty."

Such explanations take only a moment. But they help greatly in making the patient comfortable and relaxed by letting him know what's ahead.

You Owe Him That Much

As a matter of fact, introductions, explanations, and reassurances are simple courtesies that the patient has a right to expect from his nurse. Remember that in his thinking, she's responsible in the same sense that a hostess is responsible for making her guests comfortable. More

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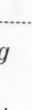
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A PATIENT'S VIEW OF HOSPITAL NURSES

A good nurse works with speed, efficiency, and dexterity. But she does more than that. As a good hostess, she also exhibits the warm, human touch and the understanding that can do so much to help the patient through an otherwise trying time.

Prepping for OB Anesthesia

By William Kreul, M.D.

Maternal death caused by vomiting during general anesthesia for delivery is a great tragedy and should be prevented by every means at hand.

The doctor, of course, carries the major burden of prevention. But the OB nurse can also help. Here's how:

¶ When the patient is admitted, ask her when she ate last, what she ate, and exactly when her labor began. The type of food is important in predicting the stomach's emptying time. The stomach probably isn't empty unless three to four hours have passed between eating and the start of labor.

¶ If the patient has eaten before labor, call this to the attention of the doctor. Such food intake may make it undesirable to give general anesthesia.

¶ Make sure the patient doesn't get any solid foods after she enters the hospital, even though she may be scheduled for local anesthesia only. If she insists on nourishment, allow only clear fluids in sips.

Whether or not the patient has eaten, vomiting is a serious hazard of general anesthesia. The delivery room nurse should make sure that the delivery table can be adjusted quickly for Trendelenburg position, if necessary, and that a suction machine and an airway tube are close at hand.

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-Le Van, P., Sternberg, T.H. & Newcomer, V.D.: Cal. Med. 81:210, 1954.

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WHAT'S NEW IN Drugs

Antidepressants From Rocket Fuel: New drugs derived from hydrazine, a fuel used in German buzz bombs in World War II, are now being tried out on mentally de-

pressed patients. Included are phenelzine (Nardil), nialamide (Niamid), isocarboxazid (Marplan), and betaphenylisopropyl hy-

drazine (Catron).

Reportedly, these four drugs gently bring patients back to normal without overstimulation, thus cutting down on the need for electroshock treatments. It's thought they work by blocking a brain enzyme, monoamine oxidase, that destroys needed nerve hormones.

A fifth new antidepressant, imipramine (*Tofranil*), is also proving potent, according to some reports. It's unrelated chemically to the rocket-fuel drugs.

An Antibiotic That Fights Fungus:

Dermatologists announce that griseofulvin, a new oral antibiotic, has cleared up cases of ringworm and other fungal infections that resisted treatment for many years.

It's available in two products, Fulvicin and Grifulvin. Taken in capsule form, it enters the blood and thus reaches tissues too tough



for people who must stay at their job

Patients who work or are away from home will welcome the easy access and prompt action of BiSoDoL Mints. Easy to carry in purse or pocket. Pleasant to chew. BiSoDoL Mints give prompt relief from gastro-intestinal distress, soothe irritated stomach membranes and exert prolonged neutralization of excess acid. Devoid of side effects. No constipation, no acid rebound, no alkalosis. A most convenient yet effective non-systemic antacid. COMPOSITION: Magnesium Trisilicate, Calcium Carbonate, Magnesium Hydroxide, Peppermint.



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Give... LOCALLY TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

WHAT'S NEW IN DRUGS

for external drugs to penetrate.

Once established among the cells of growing skin, hair, and nails, griseofulvin reportedly prevents the fungi from infecting new cells. As these healthy cells multiply, they push fungus-filled tissues to the surface where they're shed.

Potent Synthetic for Severe Pain:

A new synthetic chemical relative of morphine, called oxymorphone (Numorphan), is claimed to be safe, potent, fast, and long-lasting in giving relief from pain. And it doesn't cause vomiting and constipation, say some who've used it. It can cause addiction, though, so it must be used with caution.

Relaxant With Many Uses: A chemical called isoxsuprine (Vasodilan) is said to relax smooth muscle spasm anywhere in the body.

Doctors reportedly use this new drug to widen narrowed blood vessels in the limbs and the brain. For example, in treating frostbite and various vascular diseases, this action is said to help bring warm blood into cold numbed tissues.

The drug is also said to help clogged vessels carry more oxygen and nutrients to the semi-starved brain cells of patients with cerebral arteriosclerosis. And some say it's highly effective in relaxing uterine spasm. Thus it may prove useful in treating dysmenorrhea and premature labor.

-MORTON J. RODMAN, PH.D.

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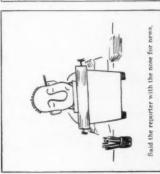
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alifica gs for staff duty, starting salary \$350 mo., wk. nd Surgical Nurse, starting salary \$355 mo., lust be ith periodic raises, P.M. and night differursing tial, Social Security, vacation, sk. lv., holibirth. yt, 40 hr. wk., and other benefits. Apply birth. rector of Nursing, Palo Verde Hospital, ythe, Calif.

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N.'s \$3960 per annum increased to \$4320 end 3 yrs, increased to \$4800 end of 8 yrs. Comete fringe benefits. Contact Supt. of Nurses,

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REGISTERED NURSES: Positions available in 90 bed general hospital. Beginning salary \$300 per mo. with pay increase after first 6 mos., after 12 mos. and annually thereafter. Cash shift differential, 40 hr. wk., 8 pd. holidays. Retirement Plan and other liberal personnel benefits. Picturesque Nurses' Home with meals and laundry available at very reasonable cost. Write Director of Nursing, Miners' Hospital of New Mexico, Raton, N. Mex.

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perience, start at \$395 a mo. First increase after 6 mos. Inservice training program features new trends in psychiatric care and treatment as well as basic and advanced courses in psychiatric nursing. Promotional opportunities. Openings in educational program for nurses with college degree who have taught and practiced psychiatric nursing, start at \$505 a mo. Nurses registered in other states are usually eligible for Calif. license without examination. Liberal employee benefits. Write State Personnel Board, 801 Capitol Ave. Dept. N 201. Sacramento 14. Calif.

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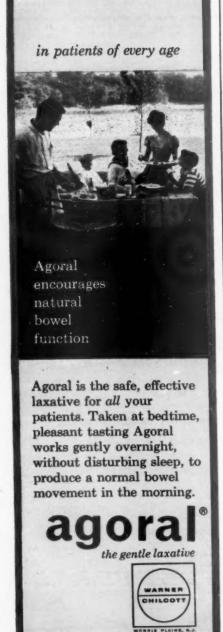
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126 RN - OCTOBER 1959

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Arabian-American Oil Company Aseptic-Thermo Indicator Co. Ayerst Laboratories Barnes Hospital Baum Company, Inc., W. A. Baxter Laboratories, Inc. Bayer Company, The Becton, Dickinson & Co. Best Foods, Inc. Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. Bristol-Myers Co.	19 78 8C 23 88 909 77 113 03 83
Aseptic-Thermo Indicator Co. Ayerst Laboratories IB Barnes Hospital II Baum Company, Inc., W. A. Baxter Laboratories, Inc. 108, II Bayer Company, The Becton, Dickinson & Co. 17, II Best Foods, Inc. II Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. II	78 IC 23 88 09 77 13 03 83
Ayerst Laboratories IB Barnes Hospital II Baum Company, Inc., W. A. Baxter Laboratories, Inc. 108, If Bayer Company, The Becton, Dickinson & Co. 17, II Best Foods, Inc. 10 Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. 10	23 88 09 77 13 03 83
Baum Company, Inc., W. A. Baxter Laboratories, Inc. 108, 11 Bayer Company, The Becton, Dickinson & Co. 17, 11 Best Foods, Inc. Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. Bristol-Myers Co. Bristol-Myers Co.	88 09 77 13 03 83
Baxter Laboratories, Inc. 108, If Bayer Company, The Becton, Dickinson & Co. 17, If Best Foods, Inc. 108 Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. 108 Bristol	09 77 13 03 83
Bayer Company, The Becton, Dickinson & Co. 17, 11 Best Foods, Inc. 10 Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. B	77 13 03 83
Becton, Dickinson & Co. 17, 11 Best Foods, Inc. 11 Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co. B	13 03 83
Best Foods, Inc. Borden Company, The Bristol-Myers Co.	03
Bristol-Myers Co.	
Central Soya Company, Inc.	78 81
Chesebrough-Pond's Inc.	00
Chicopee Mills, Inc.	36
	18
Davol Rubber Company	29 72
	97
Dome Chemicals, Inc.	70
	86
Dupont de Nemours & Co., Inc., E. I.	27
Eaton Laboratories	91 14
	73
	87
Gerher Products Co.	89
Gomeo Surg. Mfg. Corp. 1	17
Greer Co., John F.	26
Haymaker Shoes Highland View Hospital	28 04
Hoyer & Company, Inc., Ted	26
Johnson & Johnson 1	25
Knox Gelatine Co., Inc. 22, 23, 24,	25
Lederle Laboratories	32
Leeming & Co., Inc., Thos.	34
Lewis-Howe Co.	21 16
Lilly and Company, Eli Massengill Company, The S. E. 6	
Mead Johnson & Company	85
Medical Bureau, The Meinecke & Co., Inc.	19
Meinecke & Co., Inc.	84
Midol Miners Memorial Hospital Ass'n.	06
N V Dhammagautian Co	96
New 10rk Fharmacel Col. Norwich Pharmacel Company	30
Noxzema Chemical Company	95
Out city trititions, we make a second	93
Pacquin, Inc.	FC 20
Parke, Davis & Company Personal Products Corp.	75
Pfizer Labs. Div. of	2.0
Pfizer Labs., Div. of Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc.	21
Pharmaseal Laboratories	31
Preparation H	76
Procter & Gamble Company, The Revlon Pharmacal Div.	99
Rubinstein, Inc., Helena 68,	69
Schering Corp. 13, 1	15
Shinola White	0.9
Tailby-Nason Co.	15
	67
Travenol Laboratories, Inc.	07
	22
Ventura Civil Serv. Comm., County of, 1 Vick Chemical Company	74
Wander Co., The	28
Warner-Chilcott Labs. 79, 1	24
White Laboratories, Inc. 18, 92, 1	11
Whitehall Labs. 10, 76, 1 Winthrop Laboratories	101
Winthrop Laboratories Wyeth Laboratories	64
Zenith Radio Corp.	3

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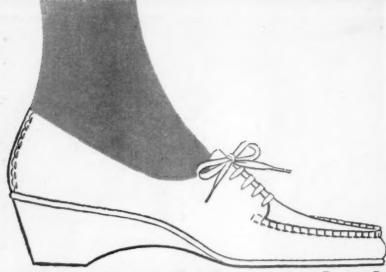
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RN · OCTOBER 1959 127



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